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the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN®

BIG TIME

PART TWO

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BUGLE GIRL

by
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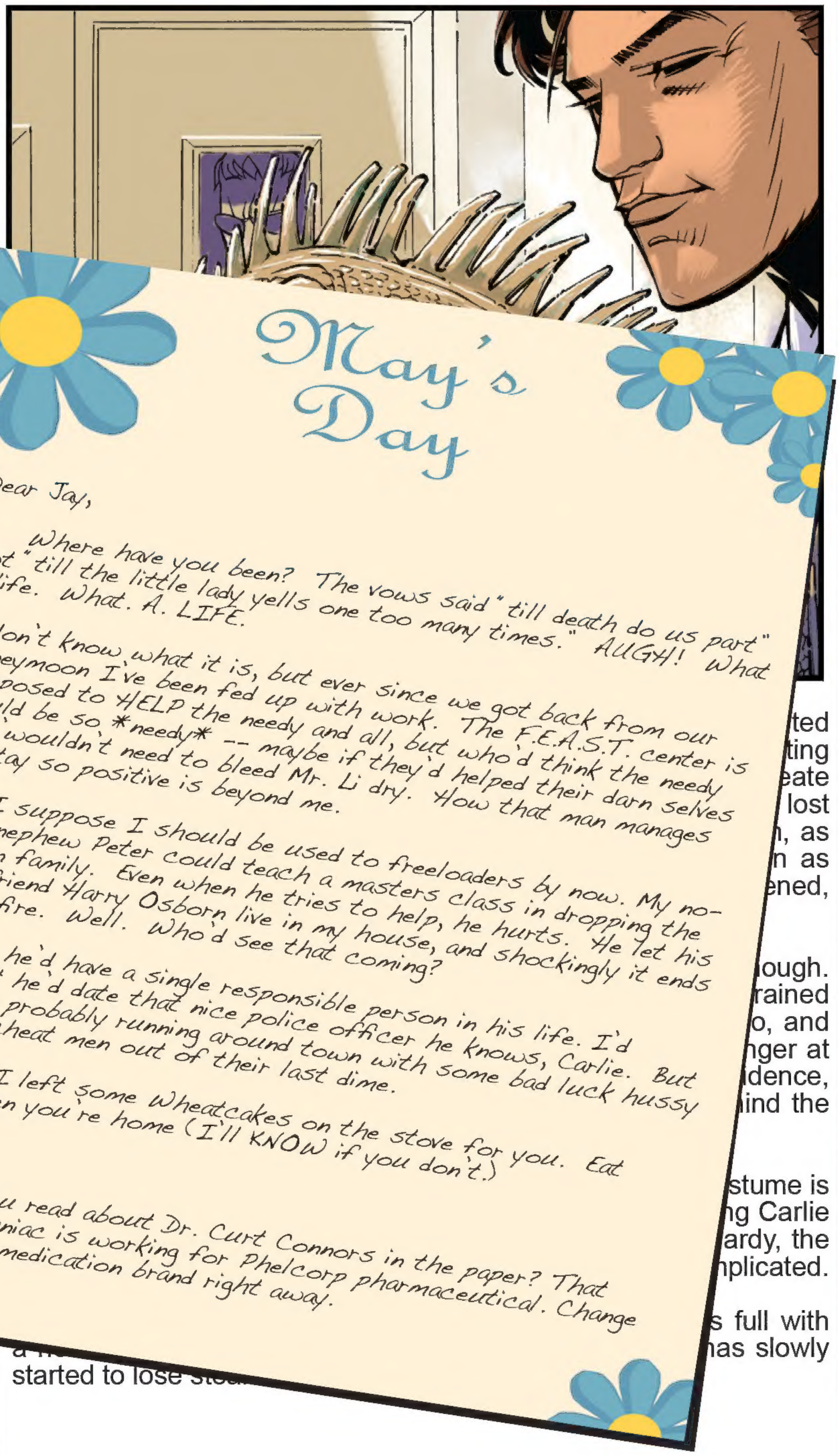
INNOVATIONS AT PHELCORI
Phelcorp executive Brian King cont
to impress stockholders. His dec
have led to an increase in the com
scientific research departments.
King's guidance, Phelcorp exe
authorized the implementation o
program studying lizards. more..

IS HOPE LOST? – It is
heart that Bugle Girl by
reports that the NYPD h
on the rescue efforts in t
Mattie Franklin and Cas
They are now pursuing
recovery" operation. more

AUNT MAY – ANTI-MAY? – May Parker, local hero and beloved staple of Martin Li's F.E.A.S.T. center, has come under fire from F.E.A.S.T. regulars for "abusive language and behavior"... more...


May's Day
Dear Jay,
Where have you been? The vows said "till death do us part" not "till the little lady yells one too many times." AUGH! What a life. What. A. LIFE.
I don't know what it is, but ever since we got back from our honeymoon I've been fed up with work. The F.E.A.S.T. center is supposed to HELP the needy and all, but who'd think the needy would be so *needy* -- maybe if they'd helped their darn selves they wouldn't need to bleed Mr. Li dry. How that man manages to stay so positive is beyond me.
But I suppose I should be used to freeloaders by now. My no-good nephew Peter could teach a masters class in dropping the ball on family. Even when he tries to help, he hurts. He let his idiot friend Harry Osborn live in my house, and shockingly it ends up on fire. Well. Who'd see that coming?
I wish he'd have a single responsible person in his life. I'd thought he'd date that nice police officer he knows, Carlie. But no, he's probably running around town with some bad luck hussy out to cheat men out of their last dime.
Anyway, I left some Wheatcakes on the stove for you. Eat them when you're home (I'll KNOW if you don't.)
--May
P.S. Did you read about Dr. Curt Connors in the paper? That reptilian maniac is working for Phelcorp pharmaceutical. Change your heart medication brand right away.

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South Bronx.

MY NAME IS KAINE. I NEVER RUN FROM ANYTHING.

I CAN SEE GLIMPSES OF THE FUTURE...A GIFT OF THE MAN I WAS CLONED FROM.

I HAVE THOUGHT MANY TIMES OF THE DAY THIS GIFT WOULD SHOW ME MY DEATH, AND HOW I WOULD ACCEPT IT GLADLY.

BUT THIS GIRL...

...STANDING IN THE PLACE I CALLED MY *HOME* ATOP THE MURDERED BODIES OF MY FELLOW TRANSIENTS...

I HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU...

I GOT *BORED.*

...SHE BRINGS WITH HER A FUTURE-FLASH OF DEATH PERVERTED. DARK CEREMONIES STINKING OF MILK AND EXCREMENT.

MY NAME IS KAINE. I NEVER RUN FROM ANYTHING.

TONIGHT I MAKE AN EXCEPTION.

NYET!

PFFFT

MY NAME IS KAINE. I...

I...

NYAAAH...

...I AM HUNTED.

AAAAAAH...

SHHHH. IT DOESN'T HURT THAT BAD.

SEE?

SSSSSSSSSSSSSSS

STAYAWAYFROMME...

STAY AWAY FROM ME!

"ACID TOUCH?"

I WILL REMEMBER.

YOU HAVE HAD ENOUGH FUN, ANA.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE, ALY?! HE'S MINE TO PLAY WITH! MOTHER TOLD ME--

MOTHER WILL NOT ALLOW THE HUNT UNTIL THE GAUNTLET IS COMPLETE.

THE LIZARD HAS HATCHED...

HE WILL NEED TO BE FED.

Blue Hills Restaurant.
GREENWICH VILLAGE.
SO THIS IS WHAT THIS FEELS LIKE...
CARLIE SAID SHE'D BE HERE AT EIGHT.
I WAS HERE AT EIGHT.
I MADE THE RESERVATION FOR EIGHT. BUT ACCORDING TO THE MAITRE D'...
SIR, EIGHT WAS A VERY LONG TIME AGO.
HEH. I GOTCHA. SORRY, FOLKS.
OUCH. AND HOW MANY PEOPLE HAVE I STOOD UP IN MY DAY? I HAVEN'T BEEN FEELING NEARLY AS GUILTY AS I SHOULD BE.
THEN AGAIN, I USUALLY HAVE AN EXCUSE. I'VE GOT A NAGGING SUSPICION CARLIE'S JUST GETTING BACK AT ME FOR ALL THE TIMES I BLEW HER OFF.
BZZZZZZZZ
WELL, HERE SHE IS. I WONDER IF SHE'S AS TERRIBLE AT MAKING EXCUSES AS I AM...
CARLIE?
I'M SO SORRY, PETER. I GOT A CRIME SCENE AND I HAD TO TAKE IT.
IT'S CURT CONNORS. THERE'VE BEEN MULTIPLE HOMICIDES AT HIS LAB.
ARE YOU OKAY?
YES, BUT I'M SORRY. I CAN'T TALK...
IT'S BAD, PETER.

Phelcorp Industries.

GILMORE NEEDS YOU IN CONNORS' OFFICE, CARLIE.

IT'S THE SMALL ROOM IN THE CORNER.

THANKS, DETECTIVE.

SHED PART TWO

THE DEATH OF CURT CONNORS

WHAT'S UP, GILMORE.

FOUND CONNORS' I.D.

THIS MESS IS HIM, THEN?

MAYBE *SOME* OF IT. THIS IS THE SECOND I.D. I PULLED...FIRST ONE BELONGED TO "*BRIAN KING.*"

GONNA BE HERE ALL NIGHT, SORTING OUT WHO IS WHO.

I CAN TAKE A HINT. GO ASSIST GOLDSTEIN. I CAN HANDLE THIS.

THANKS, CARLIE.

DON'T MENTION IT.

CONNORS.

HE DID THIS, DIDN'T HE?

WE DON'T KNOW WHO DID IT.

HOW... HOW MANY?

AT LEAST *SIX*. NO ONE IN THE LAB SURVIVED EXCEPT CONNORS' ASSISTANT.

HAVE YOU TALKED TO HER? DID SHE SEE WHAT HAPPENED?

SHE'S IN NO SHAPE TO TALK.

...

LEAVE IT AT THAT.

I BELIEVED HIM. HE SAID HE WAS CURED AND I BELIEVED HIM... *AGAIN*.

SPIDER-MAN, CURT...CURT CONNORS COULDN'T HAVE DONE *THIS*, COULD HE?

NO. WHICH MEANS HE'S *THE LIZARD*.

I...I JUST TALKED TO HIM. A WEEK AGO. HE WAS TRYING TO GET CUSTODY OF HIS KID. THAT'S ALL HE COULD TALK ABOUT...

BILLY? OH, GOD--

CARLIE, BILLY CONNORS IS *NOT* SAFE. THE LIZARD IS OBSESSED WITH HIM.

HE'S IN FOSTER CARE.

I NEED AN ADDRESS.

I'LL HAVE TO MAKE A CALL.

MAKE IT. NOW.

Greenwood Heights, Brooklyn.

15 MINUTES LATER.

NO.

HERE BIL EEE NEST?

NO NO NO...

WEAK VOICE KAH NRRS

PLEASE...

NOT THIS...

COLD ONE MAKE STRONG VOICE

SMALL ONES HEAR VOICE BEHIND EYES

OH, GOD...THAT SMELL.

I KNOW THAT SMELL. OH...

WE TAKE NEST KAH NRRS

OH, THANK YOU.

HELLO, CURT.

I KNOW YOU. I KNOW YOU'LL PROTECT MY SON.

GRRRRRRRRR

HE KNOWS IT TOO.

I'M TALKING TO *YOU*, CURT. CAN YOU HEAR ME?

YES...

I NEED YOU TO FIGHT HIM. HE'S ALREADY KILLED SIX PEOPLE.

OH, GOD... I'M SO SORRY.

I'M NOT GOING TO LET HIM GET TO YOUR SON, BUT I NEED YOUR HELP. I KNOW YOU CAN FIGHT HIM.

I KNOW. PLEASE, KEEP TALKING. I KNOW...

YOU'RE A MAN, CURT. YOU'RE CURT CONNORS.

I'M A MAN.

KAH NRRS MAKE QUIET!

I'M A MAN. MY NAME IS CURT--

QUIET MAMMAL BRAIN!

KRNCH!!

KRNCH!

KAH NRRS HIDE IN MAMMAL BRAIN

CONN--

GRRAAAARRRRRR!!

KAH NRRS TAKE SLEEP NOW

THOUGHT TALKING TO HIM WAS GOING TO WORK FOR A SECOND...

I KNOW, I KNOW...I'M PRETTY DENSE FOR A COLLEGE GRADUATE.

UNGH!!

BUT LET'S NOT KID OURSELVES...

THUMP!

I'VE SUFFERED A FEW BLOWS TO THE HEAD.

KNNCH

SWOOSH

HOPEFULLY ONE MORE WON'T HURT.

KRSHH

SMALL ONES.

SUBMIT BECOME MASTER WILL

SUBMIT BECOME MASTER WILL

SUBMIT BECOME MASTER WILL

TOO MANY OF THEM. STOP THINKING, PETER.

LISTEN TO YOUR SPIDER-SENSE.

LISTEN BEHIND LITTLE EYES.

SUBMIT BECOME MASTER WILL

SUBMIT BECOME MASTER WILL

SURVIVE.

BREAK MAMMAL MAKE STILL

DON'T THINK FIND EYES

MAKE BLIND GET TO FRONT

HIDE EYES IN DARKNESS SKIN

STAND FAST BETWEEN BILLY

KRNCH

STAY IN FRONT OF...

BILLY?

OH, NO... HE'S ALREADY BEEN HERE.

H-HELP...

WAIT!

THESE... THESE PEOPLE NEED HELP...

PLEASE...

...

HRMMPH!

THAT SMELL...

BIL LEEE

NO...

HE'S...HE'S LEAVING. DID HE UNDERSTAND ME?

I CAN'T LET HIM GET FAR...

FWIP

BUT THESE POOR PEOPLE...

GOT 'IM. I'LL TRACE HIM AS SOON AS I CHECK FOR SURVIVORS.

NO. PLEASE...

YOU CAN'T LET ME LEAVE.

PLEASE.

I KNOW WHAT HE WANTS TO DO.

BAM!

BILLY?!

GURGLE

NO...

I THOUGHT I'D GOTTEN HERE IN TIME...

MA'AM, HANG ON. I'M GOING TO CALL FOR HELP.

=COUGH=

CAN YOU TALK? IS BILLY CONNORS IN THE HOUSE?

SHE TOOK HIM.

...SHE WAS J-JUST A LITTLE GIRL.

SHE?!

JUST A LITTLE GIRL...

HNNNN. HNNNNNN.

STOP YOUR CRYING.

YOU SHOULD BE THANKING ME.

I DIDN'T *HAVE* TO LET YOU WATCH.

HHHSSS

IT'S BETTER THIS WAY. YOU SHOULD BE WITH YOUR FATHER.

FAMILY IS YOUR LEGACY.

SSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSS

DAD?

PUH- PLEASE DON'T, DADDY...

KAH NRRS WANT KILL COLD ONE

OH, GOD...

DON'T DO THIS.

NO NO NO.

SSSS

KAH NRRS BE RIVAL MALE

NO...

HURF!

NO!

COLD ONE RAID KAH NRRS NEST!

AAGH!!

I'LL DIE BEFORE I LET YOU DO IT!

HNNN... HNNN... HNNN...

COLD ONE EAT KAH NRRS YOUNG!

YA... YOU'RE GOING TO KILL ME, AREN'T YOU?

GUH... GUH...

I KNEW IT...

STOP! STOP!

NO KAH NRRS

COLD ONE STRONGEST MALE!

I'VE ALWAYS KNOWN IT.

STO--!

KRRAGHH!

NO NO NO NO NO NO NO NO NO NO NO NO

NO NO NO NO NO NO

NO NO NO

"IT IS AS THE SEER FORESAW.

NO NO NO NO NO

NO NO NO

NO NO NO NO NO

NO NO NO

"CURT CONNORS IS DEAD."

NO NO NO

NO NO NO

THE LIZARD IS MADE WHOLE, ANA. WE MUST GO.

HE'S NOT FINISHED. JUST A FEW MORE MOMENTS.

THE SPIDER WILL BE HERE SOON. WE ARE NOT TO MEDDLE IN THIS FURTHER.

I DID GOOD, DIDN'T I, ALY?

JUST A FEW MORE MOMENTS...

SIGH

...A FEW MORE MOMENTS...

TO BE CONTINUED...

the AMAZING SPIDER-MAIL

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Has it really been 7 days already? Yeesh, gotta get outta bed then and see what's on your collective minds.

Before I start though, special thanks to Emma Rios for stepping in on a couple scenes this issue and next to buy Chris Bachalo some time for what promises to be an amazing finale of this Lizard story arc. As you can see, Emma is an amazing talent and you'll be seeing much more from her here at Marvel starting with a special Daredevil related project written by the same guy typin' the story out in this very issue Clarabelle "Zeb" Wells! Keep watching the Shadowland books for more detail.

And now onto your letters regarding Pete getting "fired" for faking photos in issue #623-624:

Dear Spider-Man crew,

Peter was completely wrong, on the second-to-last page of Amazing Spider-Man 624 when he thought "...I can't clear myself without revealing who I am under this mask." He may be thinking that what he did was "stupid," but it was far more than stupid--it was a gross breach of his professional ethics. He cannot be "cleared." He cannot be excused. He actually did doctor a news photograph. That was completely unacceptable...even if the doctored photograph was telling a true story, and Jonah was absolutely correct to denounce him.

Peter Parker is supposed to be one of the most ethical characters in the Marvel Universe. In this instance, he did not live up to his catchphrase--"With great power must also come great responsibility." In this instance, he had more power with his professional reputation as a photojournalist than with his webs and super-strength and he abused that power.

As a professor, I am relieved to see that he was immediately caught and punished for this transgression, and that it is being presented as unacceptable conduct. I very much hope that you do not plan to teach your readers that committing fraud is acceptable if you do it "for all the right reasons."

Once, when I caught students cheating on a test, I told them that character was something that was built through the choices they made, and through what they learned from the mistakes that they made. From what I could see, those students seemed to work through a process, from denying their cheating, to trying to minimize the consequences of their cheating, to apologizing for their cheating, to trying to make something positive of the experience by volunteering with a group that promoted academic honesty.

At the end of issue #624, I hope Peter is in the early stages of a similar progression. He seems entirely focused on the external consequences for his career and his reputation, while still justifying his actions to himself. I very much hope that he admits to himself that he committed fraud, and that he comes to worry more about what that means to his ethical identity than about what it means to his career or to his relationships with his friends and family. The resolution of this arc CANNOT come in Peter's somehow "clearing" his name and restoring his career. The resolution MUST come in Peter's re-asserting his commitment to the responsible use of power--all power, not just superpower--and accepting the consequences of failing to live up to that responsibility.

Anything less would severely diminish Spider-Man's status as an icon of personal responsibility.

Stephen Weinberg
Albany, NY

Thanks to Stephen (and many others) for their great letters. It's nice hearing from journalism insiders who take this stuff seriously.

We're all well aware that Pete's actions were a serious breach of ethics which is why it's going to be long time before Pete can even consider living as a photographer again. He's been playing with fire with this kind of stuff for years (Pete staging photos goes back to the early days of the book), but never before has been caught and in our minds Jonah was totally right.

That no-doubt-about-it guilt was one of the reasons Mark Waid gave when he pitched the idea to throw this curveball at Pete: this isn't something Pete can just clean up and move on from...this is something he has to live with as his actions over the years have finally caught up with him.

Over time this will continue to be a black mark on his life forcing him to find new ways to make a living.

Dear Spidey Office,

I've really been enjoying the Amazing Spider-Man stories lately. The writing is spectacular, and the art style fits Spidey perfectly. It's definitely one of my favorite series' out right now. Not only are you bringing some classic Spider-Man villains back, but you're also IMPROVING them, and making them even more vicious! Not to mention introducing some new ones. I love the way it's all coming together. And may I mention, New Vulture is awesome!

I have but one complaint, however. When are you guys gonna bring Venom back into the Spidey books? I'm hoping that when Siege and the Gauntlet are over, Venom will return.

Another villain I would go bonkers to see again is Carnage. I feel as though he wasn't given his due. That character has so much potential! He was one of the biggest threats Pete ever faced. Yeah, I know Sentry ripped him in half like a jerk, but there's gotta be some way you can bring the epic-ness that is Carnage back! I recall hearing of a comic that said Cletus Kasady might not have been in the symbiote at the time of his "death." It's a start!

Nonetheless, you're doing a great job entertaining us Webhead fans! Keep up the amazing work!

Ryan Caskey
Dayton, OH

Back in #620 and #622, I accidentally ran the same letter in both columns (which in comics is known as a fire-able offense!). Anyway, rather than allowing for a mistake once every 100 letter columns, many fans took me to task, using the dual dispatches as evidence for my incomprehensible incompetence (which I warned Marvel about at the interview). One reader however, took pity on me and actually showed me how my missive mistake actually wasn't. Take it away, Matthew.

Dear Simperin' Steve,

I would like to present my case for the coveted No-Prize as it pertains to the duplication of a letter from one Sara Murphy in both issues #620 and #622 of The Amazing Spider-Man.

As the rules of the No-Prize claim that not only must one present said error, but must also state why said error is not really an error at all, I shall now render a series of events that have recently been brought before me.

New York City case #2367542
The State of New York vs. Maxwell Dillon

In this case, Max Dillon (aka Electro) caused substantial damage to the offices of Marvel Comics two days before the publication of issue #622.

On that same day, Stephen Wacker reported in sick from records we've obtained via an anonymous source. Mr. Wacker (The Chameleon?) was reportedly seen in the office feeling very cheery on that same day according to the same source. It is hereby the assumption of this office that Electro purposely overloaded the Marvel Offices so that Chameleon could duplicate the letter of Sara Murphy, whom we believe to be an alias for none other than Sergei Kravinoff's daughter Ana.

This is the most dubious attempt yet by Kid Kraven to get attention and I hope that this warrants better security in the Marvel Offices. These are trying times indeed for everyone and the last thing we need is for nefarious infiltrations like this to become commonplace.

Thank you,
Matthew Allen

Ha. Great stuff, Matthew. Only a dope would print the same letter twice. My apologies to everyone...won't happen again. And now onto our next comment:

Hi Spidey People,

I just wanted to let you know that I have no qualms whatsoever with Peter occasionally getting tipsy and hooking up with women. He's supposed to be the hero readers can relate to! A guy that doesn't want to have relations EVER because of the dangers in the modern era or the supposed "wrongness" of it "bugs" me (pun intended). It's unreal! Please, let Peter be a normal dweeby guy.

Don't pay attention to these lame complaining readers that want to make Peter into some kind of eunuch. We all know Pete has morals, but let's not forget that he isn't a saint. He's supposed to be flawed and, oh by the way, a normal guy!

Okay...enough on that.

Totally unrelated but important: I appreciate the attention to detail in issue #610 when the Reilly cousins were kidnapped by that Raptor fellow. They were drawn with mascara stains running down their faces from crying. I appreciated this. Don't be fooled, guys, I promise every designer handbag reference and mascara run is appreciated by someone out there. Me.

From a girly girl that has a designer bag, wears makeup, and reads comics,

Sara Murphy
Toledo, Ohio

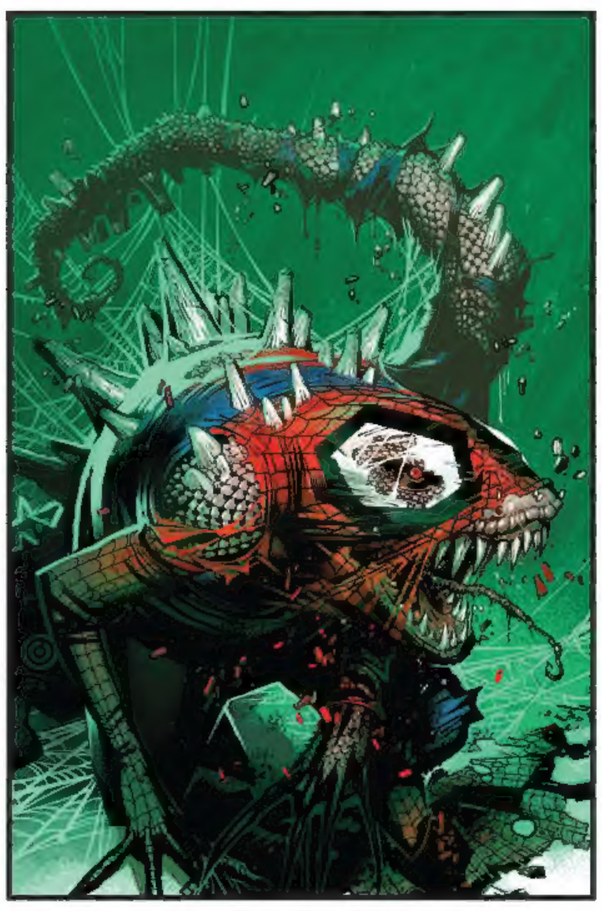
Time to get back to work, literarians. Thanks once again for popping by Spidey's world. We'll see you in two weeks for Part 3 of SHED!

Viva Earth Day!
Simperin' Steve!
4/22/10

Regular cover by Bachalo (with lettering by Chris Eliopoulos).

Villain variant by Joe Quinones.

NEXT!



(IN)HUMAN BEING!

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